



NEWS RELEASE

Office of Speaker Andy Tobin

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Speaker of the House Andy Tobin, R-Prescott (Dist. 01)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPEAKER TOBIN SENDS DEEP SYMPATHIES TO GILA COMMUNITY

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX (August 22, 2014) – Speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives Andy Tobin sends his deep sympathies to the entire Gila Community and extended family of Mary V. Thomas, the first woman in the history of the Gila River Indian Community to be appointed Governor of the Nation.

In 1994, Mary V. Thomas was appointed Governor of the nation. She served two terms from 1994 – 1999. Thomas was also the first woman Lieutenant Governor (two terms) and served as a Council Representative (District 3) for one term.

During her time as a political figure in Gila River, Thomas played key roles in establishing tribal police and fire departments, establishing the first Gila River Casino, building a new hospital, organizing one of the top resorts in Arizona, providing funding for scholarships and community computer labs, acquiring part ownership of the Williams Field Air Force Base and voted for a community run telecommunications service.



“Her impact on the people of the Gila Indian Nation and Arizona will be felt for many generations to come,” said Speaker Tobin.

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